

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4200**  
**OFFERED BY MR. SKELTON**

At the end of title III, add the following (and make such technical and conforming changes as may be appropriate):

**Subtitle D—Other Matters**

**SEC. 331. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON AMERICA'S NATIONAL  
WORLD WAR I MUSEUM.**

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

(1) The Liberty Memorial Museum in Kansas City, Missouri, was built in 1926 in honor of those individuals who served in World War I in defense of liberty and the Nation.

(2) The Liberty Memorial Association, a non-profit organization which originally built the Liberty Memorial Museum, is responsible for the finances, operations, and collections management of the Liberty Memorial Museum.

(3) The Liberty Memorial Museum is the only public museum in the Nation that exists for the exclusive purpose of interpreting the experiences of the United States and its allies in the World War I



1 years (1914–1918), both on the battlefield and on  
2 the home front.

3 (4) The Liberty Memorial Museum project  
4 began after the 1918 Armistice through the efforts  
5 of a large-scale, grass-roots civic and fundraising ef-  
6 fort by the citizens and veterans of the Kansas City  
7 metropolitan area. After the conclusion of a national  
8 architectural design competition, ground was broken  
9 in 1921, construction began in 1923, and the Lib-  
10 erty Memorial Museum was opened to the public in  
11 1926.

12 (5) In 1994, the Liberty Memorial Museum  
13 closed for a massive restoration and expansion  
14 project. The restored museum reopened to the public  
15 on Memorial Day, 2002, during a gala rededication  
16 ceremony.

17 (6) Exhibits prepared for the original museum  
18 buildings presaged the dramatic, underground ex-  
19 pansion of core exhibition gallery space, with over  
20 30,000 square feet of new interpretive and edu-  
21 cational exhibits currently in development. The new  
22 exhibits, along with an expanded research library  
23 and archives, will more fully utilize the many thou-  
24 sands of historical objects, books, maps, posters,  
25 photographs, diaries, letters, and reminiscences of



1 World War I participants that are preserved for pos-  
2 terity in the Liberty Memorial Museum's collections.  
3 The new core exhibition is scheduled to open on Vet-  
4 erans Day, 2006.

5 (7) The City of Kansas City, the State of Mis-  
6 souri, and thousands of private donors and philan-  
7 thropic foundations have contributed millions of dol-  
8 lars to build and later to restore this national treas-  
9 ure. The Liberty Memorial Museum continues to re-  
10 ceive the strong support of residents from the States  
11 of Missouri and Kansas and across the Nation.

12 (8) Since the restoration and rededication of  
13 2002, the Liberty Memorial Museum has attracted  
14 thousands of visitors from across the United States  
15 and many foreign countries.

16 (9) There remains a need to preserve in a mu-  
17 seum setting evidence of the honor, courage, patriot-  
18 ism, and sacrifice of those Americans who offered  
19 their services and who gave their lives in defense of  
20 liberty during World War I, evidence of the roles of  
21 women and African Americans during World War I,  
22 and evidence of other relevant subjects.

23 (10) The Liberty Memorial Museum seeks to  
24 educate a diverse group of audiences through its  
25 comprehensive collection of historical materials, em-



1 phasizing eyewitness accounts of the participants on  
2 the battlefield and the home front and the impact of  
3 World War I on individuals, then and now. The Lib-  
4 erty Memorial Museum continues to actively acquire  
5 and preserve such materials.

6 (11) A great opportunity exists to use the in-  
7 valuable resources of the Liberty Memorial Museum  
8 to teach the "Lessons of Liberty" to the Nation's  
9 schoolchildren through on-site visits, classroom cur-  
10 riculum development, distance learning, and other  
11 educational initiatives.

12 (12) The Liberty Memorial Museum should al-  
13 ways be the Nation's museum of the national experi-  
14 ence in the World War I years (1914-1918), where  
15 people go to learn about this critical period and  
16 where the Nation's history of this monumental  
17 struggle will be preserved so that generations of the  
18 21st century may understand the role played by the  
19 United States in the preservation and advancement  
20 of democracy, freedom, and liberty in the early 20th  
21 century.

22 (13) This initiative to recognize and preserve  
23 the history of the Nation's sacrifices in World War  
24 I will take on added significance as the Nation ap-  
25 proaches the centennial observance of this event.



1 (14) It is fitting and proper to refer to the Lib-  
2 erty Memorial Museum as “America’s National  
3 World War I Museum”.

4 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—The Congress—

5 (1) recognizes the Liberty Memorial Museum in  
6 Kansas City, Missouri, including the museum’s fu-  
7 ture and expanded exhibits, collections, library, ar-  
8 chives, and educational programs, as “America’s Na-  
9 tional World War I Museum”;

10 (2) recognizes that the continuing collection,  
11 preservation, and interpretation of the historical ob-  
12 jects and other historical materials held by the Lib-  
13 erty Memorial Museum enhance the knowledge and  
14 understanding of the Nation’s people of the Amer-  
15 ican and allied experience during the World War I  
16 years (1914–1918), both on the battlefield and on  
17 the home front;

18 (3) commends the ongoing development and vis-  
19 ibility of “Lessons of Liberty” educational outreach  
20 programs for teachers and students throughout the  
21 Nation; and

22 (4) encourages the need for present generations  
23 to understand the magnitude of World War I, how  
24 it shaped the Nation, other countries, and later  
25 world events, and how the sacrifices made then

- 1 helped preserve liberty, democracy, and other found-
- 2 ing principles for generations to come.

